

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 were pending as of the issuance of the Final Office Action. As a result of the above amendments, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 19-23 been amended without adding new matter. Accordingly, Claims 1-23 remain pending.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for his time to conduct a telephone interview on April 25, 2006 with the undersigned counsel. During the interview, the pending claims, Japanese Patent No. 2000-159254 (“JP ‘254”), and potential claim amendments were discussed.

Allowable Subject Matter

As provided in the Final Office Action, Claims 1-7 and 12-18 are allowed.

Amended Claims

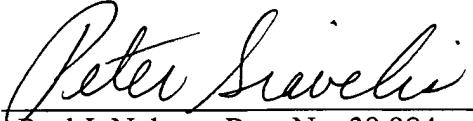
Consistent with the discussion with the Examiner and his Supervisor, independent Claims 1, 8, 19 and 21 have been amended. These amendments are supported by Applicants’ disclosure, do not raise new matter and do not warrant further searching. Because none of the cited art, including JP ‘254, discloses or suggests all of the structural elements required, Claims 1-23 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that Claims 1-23 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request early notice of the same. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney with any questions concerning this Reply, or if it will expedite the progress of this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

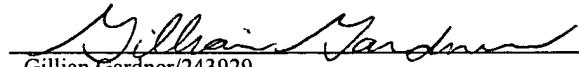
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